·object 100 includes properties 34, such as a bus counting method 103, used to report the number of buses on the controller, and a disk counting method 104, for reporting the number of disks on the controller, an array counting method 105 and a volume counting method 106 to report on the number of arrays and volumes on the controller, respectively. Each of the properties 34 is accessible to the RAID software 12a for communicating with the controller of the RAID hardware devices 17a.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 19 with the following:

In Figures 10 and 11, the array object 130 and the volume object 140, like the disk object 120, include methods 32, properties 34 and events 36. In one embodiment of the invention, the array is defined as a physical grouping of one or more disks. Accordingly, the array object 130 includes a method 131 to create an array and a method 132 to expand an array. A disk count property 134 enables the RAID software 12a to identify the number of disks 120 included in the array 130. A volume degraded event 180 permits the RAID software 12a to receive notification when a volume 140 of the array 130 has degraded.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 4 and 6 as follows. Please cancel claims 22-27 without prejudice. Please add new claims 28-32.

4. (Amended)   The method of claim 3, wherein providing a plurality of tools to perform operations on the plurality of objects further comprises:

providing a function for invoking a method of an object;

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